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CONFIDENTIALOC-M-74-578
11 October 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Administration

SUBJECT : Reprogramming of Computer Assisted Field
Terminal (CAFT) Funds

1. As we discussed at the 16 September 1974 DD/A-OC Management Conference, the Office of Communications has decided not to proceed with the Computer Assisted Field Terminal (CAFT) program as originally planned. This decision was reached after a detailed review of CAFT proposals received from industry in late FY-1974, and a reanalysis of the goals of the CAFT program. The results of these evaluations convinced us that CAFT, as presently conceived, and due to limitations imposed by other elements of the network, is premature, and not at this time a cost-effective approach to improve communications field terminal operations.

2. A review of our world-wide communications system has led to the conclusion that we must reach beyond the CAFT concept to the planned follow-on Automated Field Terminal (AFT) if we are to be in a position to meet the late 1970's and early 1980's requirements for remote input/output, information handling and digitized data transmission. We plan a phased, evolutionary program for attaining the necessary network capability to meet these requirements. Our efforts will be directed at field terminal improvements (AFT) and simultaneously at modifying the transmission network so that it can effectively handle the new concepts. The entire AFT program must be carefully synchronized with other Agency communications programs now underway such as SKYLINK, DATEX and the Cable Dissemination System.

3. Our phased plan requires the expenditure in this fiscal year of approximately \$50,000 to finalize our definition studies for the total AFT system concept, including the associated switching and transmission means modifications. In FY-1976 we expect to procure approximately five operational models of the systems which we would deploy to a comparable number of Agency field stations, carefully selected in unison with Agency components to assure that the most urgent needs are satisfied first. This initial operational capability would permit "customer" familiarization with the AFT concepts, capabilities and limitations and also provide OC with useful technical information which could lead to

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system improvements in follow-on procurements of the AFT system. We would anticipate working closely in the tests with Finance, Logistics, OJCS, and DDO Officers, including station chiefs and other field station personnel who would benefit from AFT-provided services.

4. No additional funds are required for this proposal. Originally, CAFT was to be funded as an integral part of our staff network equipment program. When conventional communications equipment had to be replaced, a CAFT would be installed as part of the normal replacement cycle. The funding level for the staff network equipment program was not increased to provide funds for CAFT in FY-1975. In the initial hearing on the FY-1975 budget, it was suggested that it would be better to budget for CAFT as a separate line item. Such action would assure that the CAFT program would be highlighted for the OMB and other reviewing officials. The amount budgeted for staff network equipment was reduced by \$325,000 for this purpose from a total of [REDACTED] Now that it has been decided not to procure CAFT terminals during FY-1975, approval is requested to restore the \$325,000 to the staff network equipment program from which it was originally taken. Approximately \$50,000 of this amount will be required for the AFT studies and the balance will be needed for on-going network equipment which now cannot be replaced by CAFT.

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5. The initial AFT systems to be installed at the selected field sites, together with attendant network improvements, are estimated to require the [REDACTED] programmed for CAFT in the FY-1976 budget. At this time we recommend no change in this item. At the appropriate time we will change the resource package title from CAFT to AFT.

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6. Your approval is requested

- a. to proceed with the program outlined above
- b. to restore the FY-1975 CAFT funds to the

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Network Equipment FAN

c. to redesignate the FY-1976 CAFT funds as
AFT when the next budget revision is submitted.



Director of Communications

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